



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/698,712	10/27/2000	Hong Heather Yu	9432-000122	5774
7590	11/17/2005		EXAMINER	
Harness Dickey & Pierce PLC P O Box 828 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303			REVAK, CHRISTOPHER A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2131	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/698,712	YU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christopher A. Revak	2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1-18 and 24 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 19-23 and 25 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 22 and 23 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 October 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive. A new grounds of rejection is presented below.

Specification

2. Claims 22 and 23 are objected to because of the following informalities: It is recited of "The system of claim 1...." in the preambles which appear to depend upon independent claim 19 since it is "a system" whereby independent claim 1 is "a method" which are different statutory classes. The examiner is interpreting claims 22 and 23 to dependent upon claim 19. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 19-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Serret-Avilia et al, U.S. Patent 6,785,815.

As per claims 19 and 25, Serret-Avilia et al teaches of a system for encoding digital data comprising a memory for partitioning the digital data into a plurality of blocks including a first block and second block. A processor for extracting signature

information from a first one of the blocks and embedding the signature information in the second block (col. 12, lines 30-45; col. 13, lines 1-20; and col. 18, lines 16-28).

As per claim 20, Serret-Avilia et al discloses of employing a data hiding algorithm to embed the signature information in the second block (col. 12, lines 30-45).

As per claim 21, it is taught by Serret-Avilia et al that a memory stores the digital data expressed in the frequency domain with corresponding frequency coefficients and wherein the data processor includes an extraction algorithm that uses a selected portion of the frequency coefficients to generate the signature information (col. 13, lines 32-46 and col. 19, lines 20-42).

As per claim 22, Serret-Avilia et al discloses that memory expresses the plurality of blocks geometrically and the processor accesses the memory to define the first second blocks and second blocks such that the distance between the first and second blocks are maximized (col. 13, lines 32-46).

As per claim 23, Serret-Avilia et al teaches that a processor accesses the memory to define the first and second blocks in a circular strategy whereby that first block both provides signature information to and receives signatures information from a linked lists of blocks containing at least one third block all defined in the memory (col. 13, lines 32-46 and col. 19, lines 20-42).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-18 and 24 are allowed.

5. It was not found to be taught in the prior art of partitioning data into a plurality of blocks, extracting signature information stored in a first one of the blocks, selecting a second block as a masking block, and embedding the signature information of the first block in the masking block.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher A. Revak whose telephone number is 571-272-3794. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:30am-3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher Revak
Primary Examiner
AU 2131


11/14/05

CR

November 14, 2005